

MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MAY 11, 2009
MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Beale convened the meeting at 6 p.m. and welcomed everyone present. All Board Members, the County Manager, Deputy Clerk, Finance Director, County Attorney, members of the news media and interested citizens were present.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chairman Beale announced that after presentation of the budget the Board would be scheduling budget work sessions.

INVOCATION: Rev. Mitch Schultz from Franklin Christian Missionary Alliance Church gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The pledge to the flag was recited.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

SOLID WASTE/ CORRECTIVE MEASURES ASSESSMENT: Chairman Beale convened the public hearing for the purpose of discussing the results of a corrective measures assessment prepared by Bunnell-Engineering, Inc. and to receive feedback on the potential remedies in the report as noticed. Solid Waste Director Chris Stahl explained the assessment, recommendations and conclusions. (Attachment #1) No one from the public wished to comment and the public hearing was closed. Upon motion by Commissioner McClellan, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, the Board unanimously voted to accept the recommendation and rationale for corrective action as recommended on page 13 of the attached report.

SOLID WASTE/MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE: Chairman Beale convened the public hearing on the three-year update to the Macon County Solid Waste Management Plan as noticed. Solid Waste Director Chris Stahl explained the plan must be updated every three years and addresses management of solid waste for residents of unincorporated areas of Macon County, the Town of Franklin and the Town of Highlands. Mr. Stahl stated the purpose of the update is to evaluate the solid waste program, to identify areas that need improvement, to monitor disposal capacity and to set new goals for increased recycling and waste diversion opportunities. He also noted the update includes the recently adopted abandoned mobile home project. No one from the public wished to speak and the hearing was closed. Upon motion by Commissioner Koppers, seconded by Commissioner Davis, the Board unanimously voted to adopt the attached resolution accepting and endorsing the Solid Waste Management Plan of 2009 for Macon County. (Attachment #2)

TRANSIT/AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009 GRANT APPLICATION: Chairman Beale convened the public hearing on the proposed American Recover and Reinvestment Act of 2009 application to be submitted to NCDOT for transit capital improvement in the amount of \$256,331. Transit Director Kim Angel explained the purpose of the application and answered questions from the Board. No one from the public wished to speak and the hearing was closed. Upon motion by Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Koppers, the Board unanimously voted to adopt the attached resolution authorizing submission and execution of the grant documents. (Attachment #3)

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: Narrell Kirkland expressed concerns about a new sign on Highway 28 erected by Windy Gap Baptist Church. Chairman Beale advised the sign was in the Franklin ETJ; therefore, the Town of Franklin would have jurisdiction in the matter.

ADJUSTMENTS TO AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Chairman Beale stated the Board had received information from Duke Power on proposed lake levels at Nantahala Lake and would like to add the item as 8C under Reports and Presentations. The

County Manager advised additional budget revisions needed to be included in the consent agenda item. Commissioner McClellan made a motion to approve the agenda with the two requested additions. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Davis and all favored.

REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS:

NORTH CAROLINA FOREST SERVICE: NCFS County Ranger Bobby Mashburn presented an agency report and briefly discussed assistance the NCFS and the County receives from a young offenders forest conservation program called BRIDGE and introduced Travis Ruff. Mr. Ruff explained the BRIDGE Program is a joint effort of the North Carolina Forest Resources and the North Carolina Division of Prisons formed in 1985 and first funded by the General Assembly in 1986. He explained these young offenders have fought wildfires in 32 western North Carolina counties and receive an incentive wage of \$1 per day saving taxpayers money; however, funding for the program has been eliminated in the State's proposed budget. Mr. Mashburn and Mr. Ruff detailed the value of the program and requested any support the Board could offer. Commissioner Simpson made a motion to instruct a resolution in support of continued funding for the BRIDGE Program at the current level be forwarded to the Governor of North Carolina, the county's legislative delegation and the governing board and legislative delegation of the other 31 WNC counties that benefit from the BRIDGE Program. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McClellan and all favored.
(Attachment #4)

BUDGET PRESENTATION: The County Manager/Budget Officer Jack Horton presented the FY 09/10 budget and message. (Attachment #5) Mr. Horton explained the County expects less than a 1% growth in the tax base this year, a reduction in sales tax, permit fees and investment earnings. He added this year's budget challenge was to fund county services and obligations with these reduced revenues within the available resources with no property tax increase. He commended county department heads for their diligence in preparing their budgets and Finance Director Evelyn Southard for her work on the budget. Mr. Horton reviewed the budget calendar noting the public hearing would be held at the June 8th meeting with consideration for adoption of the budget on the June 22nd agenda. A work session was scheduled for May 19th.

NANTAHALA LAKE LEVELS: Chairman Beale distributed information from Duke Energy stating Nantahala Lake will be lower than average this summer so that Duke Energy can make major repairs to the Nantahala generator and paint 9400 feet of pipeline that moves water to the generator. The report shows that by Labor Day the lake will be 35 feet below full and Chairman Beale stated he had been contacted by business owners around the lake stating this draw down will have a very negative economic impact on the community and their businesses. Chairman Beale advised that he would pass the comments from these business owners along to Fred Alexander, Duke's District Manager for Government and Community Relations.

CONSENT AGENDA: Upon motion by Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner McClellan, the Board unanimously approved the following items on the consent agenda:

Minutes - Approved the minutes from the April 27th meeting as submitted.

Budget Revisions - Approved the following budget revisions:
revision #170, appropriating \$1,000 in the Sheriff's Department for vehicle insurance settlement;
revision #171, appropriating \$3,075 insurance settlement for Emergency Management;
revision #172, budget \$1,400 in client contribution for congregate meals in DSS
revision #173 was pulled at the request of the Finance Director;
revision #174, appropriated \$159,793 additional timber sales revenue;
revision #175, increasing DSS crisis intervention funding by \$199;
revision #176, appropriating \$966 controlled substance tax in the Sheriff's Department;

revision #177, budgeting \$7,295 Pesticide/Recycling Grant in Cooperative Extension and
revision #178, transfer of \$878,000 from General Fund to capital project fund for old library and EMS renovations. (Note: revisions with corresponding numbers are attached.)

APPOINTMENTS: Upon motion by Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Davis, the Board unanimously voted to reappoint Charles (Butch) Deal and Larry Sheffield to the Farmland Preservation Committee with terms to expire May 31, 2012.

ADJOURNMENT: Upon motion by Commissioner Simpson the meeting was adjourned.

Jack Horton, County Manager
Clerk to the Board
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Ronnie Beale
Board Chairman